

Serial No. 10/741,809

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7-23 and 44-73 are now pending in this application, claims 5, 6 and 24-43 having been canceled and claims 44-73 having been added. Claims 1, 44, 52, 60 and 67 are the independent claims.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 3, 6-14, 26, and 29-37 are allowable. The claims have been amended above so that current independent claims 1, 44, 52, 60 and 67 respectively correspond to original allowable claims 6, 7, 9, 29 and 37. Accordingly, Applicants believe the independent claims and the claims that depend therefrom are allowable.

Applicants note, however, that the above amendments have been made solely in order to expedite allowance of the application. Applicants continue to believe that the original claims are allowable and Applicants reserve the right to continue prosecuting the original claims in a continuing application. In this regard, the Applicants wish to point out the Examiner's Response To Arguments set forth in the Final Office Action appears to mischaracterize Applicants prior comments. Specifically, the Examiner claims that the Applicants are alleging that Giles does not teach a hermetically sealed housing for an optical amplifier. Applicants are saying no such thing. Applicants readily concede that Giles shows a hermetically sealed housing. However, as set forth in detail in the previous response, Applicants are arguing that the claimed hermetically sealed housing does not correspond to the particular pressure sealed housing of Giles.

Conclusion

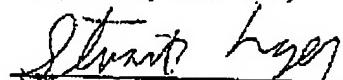
In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes there are still unresolved issues, a telephone call to the undersigned would be welcomed.

Fees

If there are any fees due and owing in respect to this amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge such fees to deposit account number 50-1047.

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Respectfully submitted,



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